NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 13, 2004

METHAMPHETAMINE TRAINING FOCUSES ON PROTECTING CHILDREN

BISMARCK – The safety of children exposed to illegal drugs at home is the focus of a new training program, announced Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem.

"Methamphetamine exposure takes a physical and emotional toll on children. We have systems in place to treat drug addicted parents, but until now there has not been a unified approach for addressing the needs of their children," said Stenehjem.

The children are exposed to a variety health risks, ranging from exposure to toxic chemicals and fire hazards, to malnutrition, abuse, and neglect. There have been several recent incidents across North Dakota with young children caught in house fires started by parents cooking meth. Hundreds of children every year receive services from many different agencies to help them recover from their ordeal.

The Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Training program will help North Dakota officials develop practices to address needs of children exposed to manufacturing, use, or trafficking of meth in their homes. The training, which was established by the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), emphasizes sharing information, investigation and interview techniques, and case coordination.

"This training will bring together law enforcement, child welfare, physicians, treatment providers, educators and the court system to develop standard protocols and coordinate procedures to treat the children and bring their parents to justice," said Stenehjem.

The training program is sponsored by the Attorney General's office and Midwest HIDTA. The training is taking place today at the Comfort Inn, Bismarck. Additional training is scheduled:

September 15, 2004 County Office Building, Grand Forks
October 25, 2004 Ramada Plaza Suites Hotel, Fargo

Pre-registration is required.

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Media Contact: Liz Brocker (701) 328-2210

Did you know?

- Children throughout the nation have been injured and killed as a result of methamphetamine manufacturing and use.
- This training will provide specific strategies for addressing this problem.

Who should attend?

- Law enforcement officers
- ? Health Care Professionals
- ? Child Protective Service workers
- ? First responders/EMS workers
- ? State's attorneys
- ? Youth service professionals



Information

Training Cost: **Free** Registration: 8:00 am

Training: 8:30 am—5:00 pm

Lunch—on your own

Training Dates

September 13, 2004

Comfort Inn, 1030 E. Interstate Avenue, Bismarck, ND

September 15, 2004

County Office Bldg, 151 S. 4th St., Grand Forks, ND

October 25, 2004

Ramada Plaza Suites Hotel, Fargo, ND

Questions?

Contact LaMar Kruckenberg BCI (701) 328-5500

This training has been approved for 8.0 hours by ND POST Board.

Drug Endangered Children Training





Drug Endangered Children Program

"The Drug Endangered Children Program brings together law enforcement officers and child welfare workers so that children who are found in drug production environments receive appropriate attention and care."

Office of National Drug Control Policy

The Drug Endangered Children Program was established to encourage a multidisciplinary approach to addressing the needs of children as a result of clandestine methamphetamine labs or other drug production, trafficking and abuse.

The Drug Endangered Children Training Program will encourage greater cooperation between social service and law enforcement agencies to ensure the safety of drug endangered children, and assist in successful prosecution of drug offenders.

Participants will be provided with guidelines to establish a protocol for multidisciplinary case coordination, documentation to aid prosecution, and procedures for situations involving drug endangered children.

Topics include:

- ? The history of the DEC program;
- ? Methamphetamine awareness issues:
- Interview guidelines and techniques for child abuse investigators;
- ? Civil investigation procedures for Child Protective Services;
- ? Forensic interviews, medical exams, and drug screening;
- ? The role of the prosecutor.

Instructors include a multi-agency team from national criminal justice agencies.

Participants will learn how to:

- Establish a collaborative, multidisciplinary response to children discovered in clandestine methamphetamine labs;
- Break the cycle of child abuse and neglect caused by those who manufacture, sell and use drugs;
- ? File additional charges for child endangerment and/or enhancements against clandestine methamphetamine lab operators.

DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN TRAINING - Registration Form Name: Organization: Address: Please check one: I will attend on FULL September 13, 2004 in Bismarck September 15, 2004 in Grand Forks October 25, 2004 in Fargo Register early! Space is limited. To register by mail: ND Bureau of Criminal Investigation c/o Karen Iverson PO Box 1054 Bismarck ND 58502-1054

To register by phone:

Call Karen Iverson at (701) 328-5500